

Please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

B 1
1(Amended). A method of treating patients having chronic hepatitis C infections which comprises (1) administering a therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of ribavirin and a therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of pegylated interferon-alfa for a first treatment time period sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA, followed by (2) administering a therapeutically effective amount of ribavirin and an therapeutically effective amount of pegylated interferon-alfa for a second treatment time period sufficient to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA at least by the end of the second treatment time period and to maintain no detectable HCV-RNA for at least 24 weeks after the end of the second treatment time period, wherein the therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of pegylated interferon-alfa administered per week in the a first treatment time period is more than the therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of pegylated interferon-alfa administered per week in the second treatment time period, and the sum of the first and the second treatment time periods is about 40 to about 50 weeks.

Please cancel claims 10 to 37 without prejudice.